



Inter Department Correspondence Sheet

TO: Members of City Council

FROM: Breck Daughtrey, City Clerk

COPIES TO: _____

SUBJECT: Minutes of City Council Meetings

May 9, 2016

Attached are the minutes of the City Council Budget Hearing held on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 and Real Estate Tax Hearing held on Thursday, May 5, 2016.

Breck

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
BUDGET HEARING
GRANBY HIGH SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Fraim called the Budget Public Hearing to order at 6:05 p.m. with the following members present: Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Protogyrou, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley and Mr. Winn.

The opening prayer was offered by Councilman Paul Riddick followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Fraim welcomed members of the public present for the hearing and reviewed the process for offering input.

He thereupon called for the first speaker.

Ms. Vicky Greco, 1433 Brunswick Avenue, Norfolk, stated that she is a founding member of Norfolk Gains growing and investing in Norfolk's schools. She thanked all teachers in the public school system current and retired. She noted that our teachers are under resourced and over tired but are resilient and continue to do their jobs. She asked Council to please fully and overly fund the request of the school board administration.

Mr. Joshua Stone, 8718 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, stated that he is a teacher and product of Norfolk Public Schools and is here today to ask for better funding for education. He asked Council to throw out the proposed budget and start over and prove to their constituents that education is a number one priority.

Mr. Thomas Calhoun, 5443 Welaka Road, Norfolk, stated that he is president of the Norfolk Federation of Teachers and that he is here to ask Council to fully fund the budget as requested by Dr. Boone, Superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools.

Ms. Alice Allen-Grimes, 1322 Mallory Court, Norfolk, asked Council to substantially increase funding for Norfolk Public Schools, specifically to address maintenance of all school buildings.

Mr. Tom Jones, 1603 Boyce Drive, Norfolk, thanked Council for supporting Norfolk Public Libraries and for building the branch in Ocean view and the gorgeous Slover Library and others in the works. He stated that the bookmobile, which has been in service in Norfolk since 1956, is an important component of Norfolk Public Libraries and that it helps to bridge communities and is equivalent in numbers of books that it lends out. The bookmobile has had some problems along the way and is in need of an overhaul to keep it running. He asked for funding to help defray costs for improvements to the bookmobile.

Mr. Roy Martin, 1043 Algonquin Road, Norfolk, Chairman of the Norfolk Public Library Board of Trustees, expressed appreciation for Council's continued support of the library system. Focusing on the positive aspects and understanding that libraries are doing good for all citizens, he noted that supporting the neighborhood and initiatives to put the Horace C. Downing southside library together is a wonderful example of how City Council is supporting neighborhoods. Norfolk libraries are meeting its mission and are nice places to be.

Vicki Love, 4419 Deacon Lane, Virginia Beach, spoke about a COLA for retirees.

Mr. Tom Luckman, 3192 Gallahad Drive, Virginia Beach, spokesperson for the Retirees Association's COLA Fairness Committee, spoke on continuing loss of retiree benefit due to inflation. He requested a 2.5 percent COLA in the budget and two-thirds of the CPIU going forward. He urged Council to take no action on the Manager's request for future COLAs or bonuses to come from the General Fund.

Mr. Mike McKenna, 3124 Douglas Road, Chesapeake, asked Council to support the Manager's proposal for the new public safety pay plan and also a two percent COLA for retirees.

Ms. Jane Bethel, 1142 Little Bay Avenue, president of the National Association of Government Employees Local 200, thanked Council for the two percent COLA for retirees. She urged Council to reject the proposed plan to pay retiree COLAs out of the General Fund.

Mr. David LeFleur, acting president of Norfolk Police Union, thanked the Manager and his team for the pay plan as outlined in the budget. The plan

addresses recruiting and retention and also gives Norfolk the opportunity to become a competitive city for the foreseeable future. The Norfolk Police Union and FOP thanked Council for their support and stated that public safety is only going to get better.

Mr. Lawrence Brown, 925 Waltham Street, President of the Norfolk Professional Firefighters Local 68, spoke in favor of the new compensation plan for Public Safety. He stated that the new plan will help attract, retain, motivate and continue to develop the Public Safety work force. He asked City Council to support the proposed budget that includes the compensation plan as well as a COLA for retirees. On behalf of all firefighters he thanked Mayor Fraim for his dedication and service to the City of Norfolk.

Dr. Melinda J. Boone, Superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools, asked the City Council to approve their budget request. She stated that the path of success of our schools has three core pieces: stability, focus and alignment, and results. She stressed the importance of retaining our best and brightest educators as well as recruitment of new teachers.

Mr. Rodney Jordan, Board Chair of Norfolk Public Schools, echoed Dr. Boone's comments. He stated that over the last few months we've had a great conversation about education in the City of Norfolk. With the recent election we have heard from our citizens and candidates about the importance of education. One of the key components submitted in the school budget is a funding request to support a 3% raise for all school staff. He asked Council and the City Manager to consider how they might provide a little more support in order to address important issues that will enable Norfolk Public Schools to continue to have a successful academic school system and to continue the construction of new schools.

Mr. Barry Bishop, 9508 25th Bay Street, Greater Norfolk Corporation, applauded the city for achieving fiscal stability and added that the proposed 2017 budget is also structurally balanced. He stressed the importance of job growth, new business formations and attracting and retaining capable and dedicated employees to continue the success of the city. He applauded the city's commitment to collaborate with Norfolk Public Schools and other public and private partners including the Greater Norfolk Corporation to develop the regional career pathway center at Lake Taylor. The Hampton Roads Community Foundation recently created Reinvent Hampton Roads whose mission is to fashion an action plan to accelerate job growth in the region. As part of that effort a number of CEOs in Norfolk and across the region have recently been

interviewed and asked about the requirements for the region's future economic growth. Work force development, talent attraction and retention were at the top of their list. He thanked the City Council and the City Manager for their continued support.

Ms. Amanda Skupin, 9617 14th Bay Street, asked that Pleasant Avenue be included in the Green and Complete Streets initiative and that Bay Oaks Park be completed.

Ms. Ann Bolen, 9542 18th Bay Street, on behalf of East Ocean View and the East Ocean View Civic League, noted that they have worked hard on their vision for the East Ocean View area and the Ocean View branding campaign. She asked that Pleasant Avenue be included in the Green and Complete Streets initiative.

Mr. Martin Thomas, 7400 Colony Point Road, thanked City Council for funding the Wards Corner Comprehensive Plan and for their continued support.

Ms. Ginny Alberts, 2037 Inlet Point Road, President of the Bay Oaks Park Committee, asked City Council for additional funding for Bay Oaks Park. She added that more than \$2 million is needed to complete the infrastructure, walkways and other features in the approved plan. Funding is also needed for vehicles and equipment needed by staff to maintain and improve our city green space. She asked for funding for the acquisition of more public open space throughout the city.

Ms. Ann Fitzgibbon, 632 Massachusetts Avenue, Bay Oaks Park Committee, asked for funding to complete Bay Oaks Park. She added that we need more public green space throughout the city.

Ms. JoAnne Berkley, 1419 Buckingham Street, asked that they not vote on the budget as prepared but to start again and find additional funding for Norfolk Public Schools. In addition, she noted that more funding is needed for maintaining our school buildings so that they do not have to be demolished and new ones built.

Mr. Andrew Dack, 412 Draper Drive, asked for more funding for Norfolk Public Schools. He noted that only 38% of our budget is allocated for schools compared with other cities in the region who allocate as much as 50% of their budget for schools. He stressed the importance of attracting and retaining teachers.

With no more speakers remaining, Mayor Fraim adjourned the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
REAL ESTATE TAX HEARING
GRANBY HIGH SCHOOL

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.

Vice Mayor Graves called the Real Estate Tax Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Protogyrou, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley and Mr. Winn. Mayor Fraim was absent.

The opening prayer was offered by Councilman Paul Riddick followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Vice Mayor Graves noted that no one had registered to speak at tonight's hearing and asked if anyone present wished to be heard. Hearing no response, she adjourned the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.